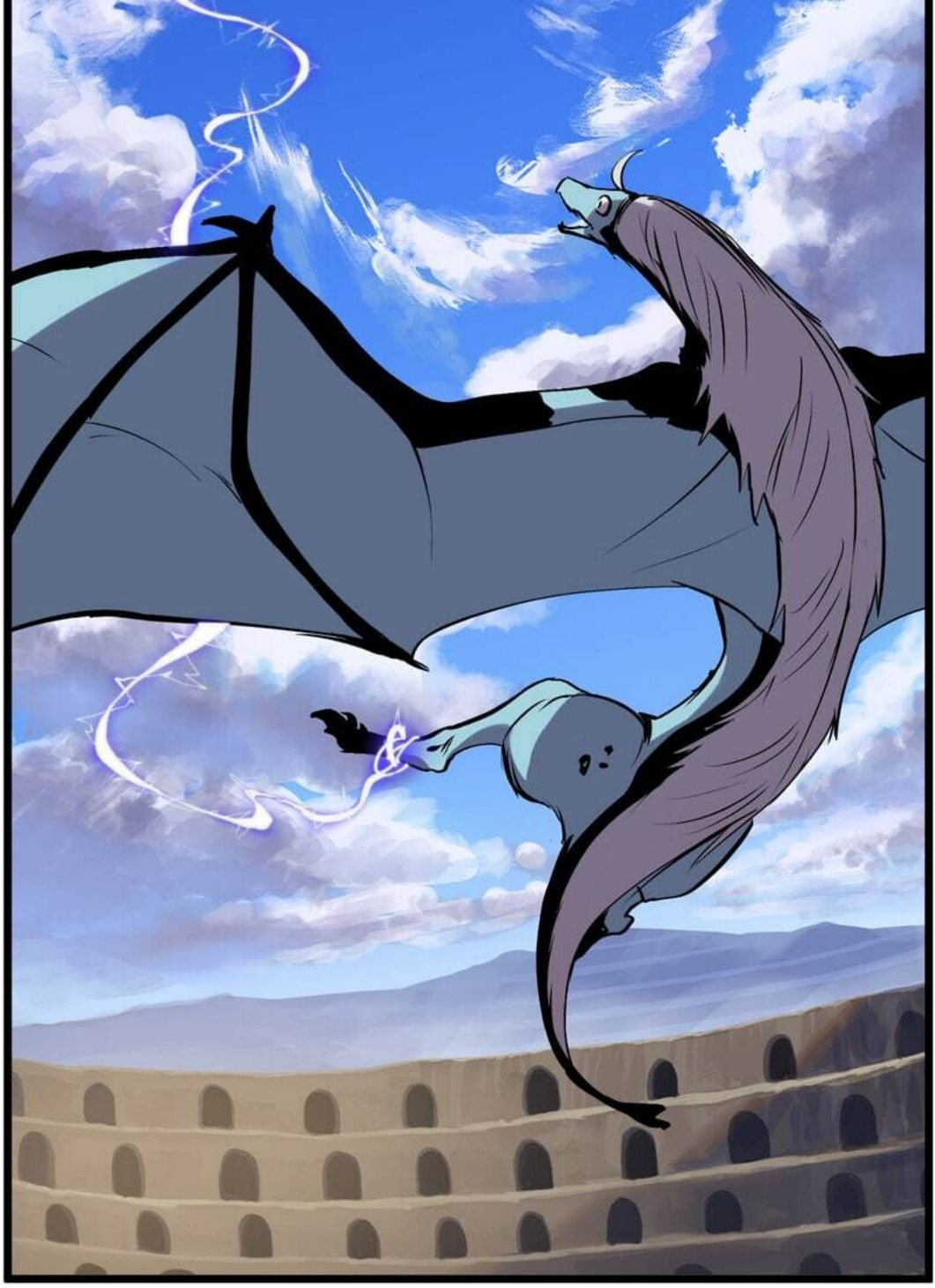
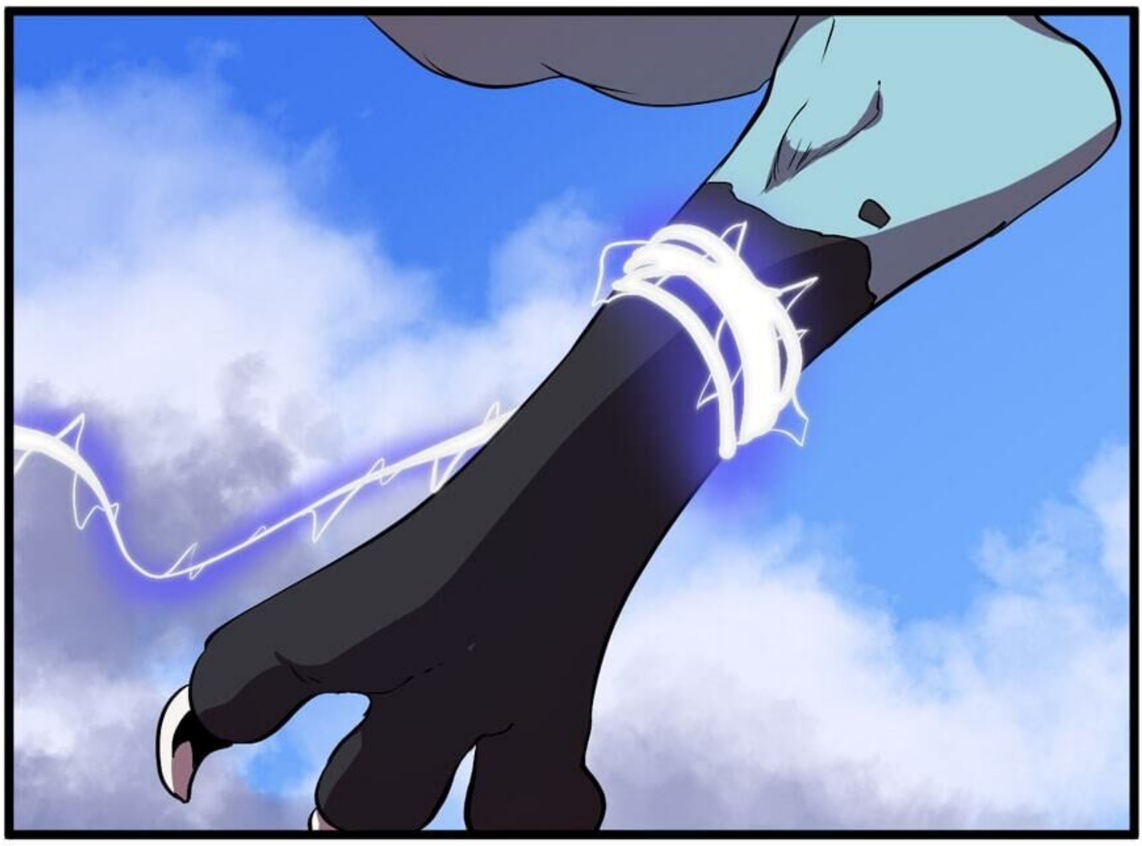
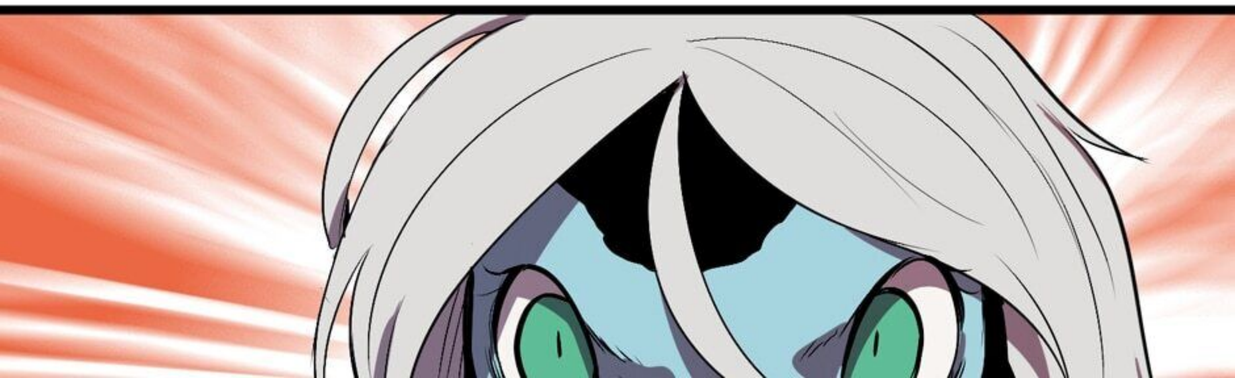


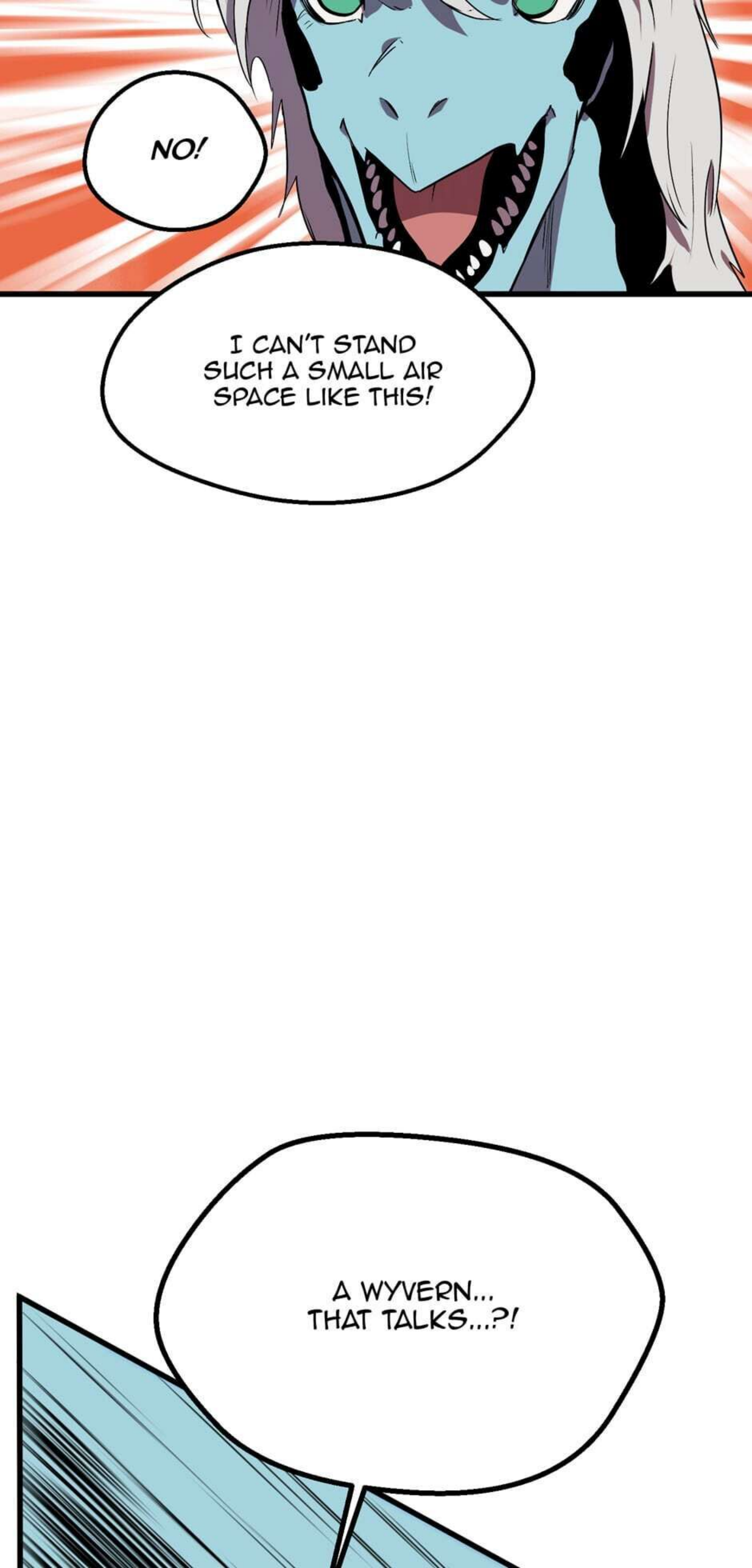
...YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE.



PFFT!

YOU EXPECT ME TO BE TIED DOWN TO A PLACE LIKE THIS?




NO!
I CAN'T STAND SUCH A SMALL AIR SPACE LIKE THIS!
A WYVERN... THAT TALKS...?!

KYAK!

W-WAIT!!

DON'T GO ANY HIGHER!!
SNAP

HAH! I'M SURE SHE'S SKILLED ENOUGH TO LAND SAFELY.
I WAS AFRAID THAT THERE MIGHT BE ARCHERS AROUND OR SOMETHING IF I WENT ANY HIGHER, BUT...

THERE'S NOTHING HERE...

VRIIIIZ

LATNA SAGA

SURVIVAL OF A SWORD KING

Original Novel : YKB
Story & Art : SOON-Q

Translation:
Kristianna Lee & Mina Son

Typesetting: Joh-Lize Viljoen

Quality Control: Peter Law

Localization Produced by Tapas Media

tapas

THE CRATER VALLEY DUNGEON

BOTTOMMOST LEVEL

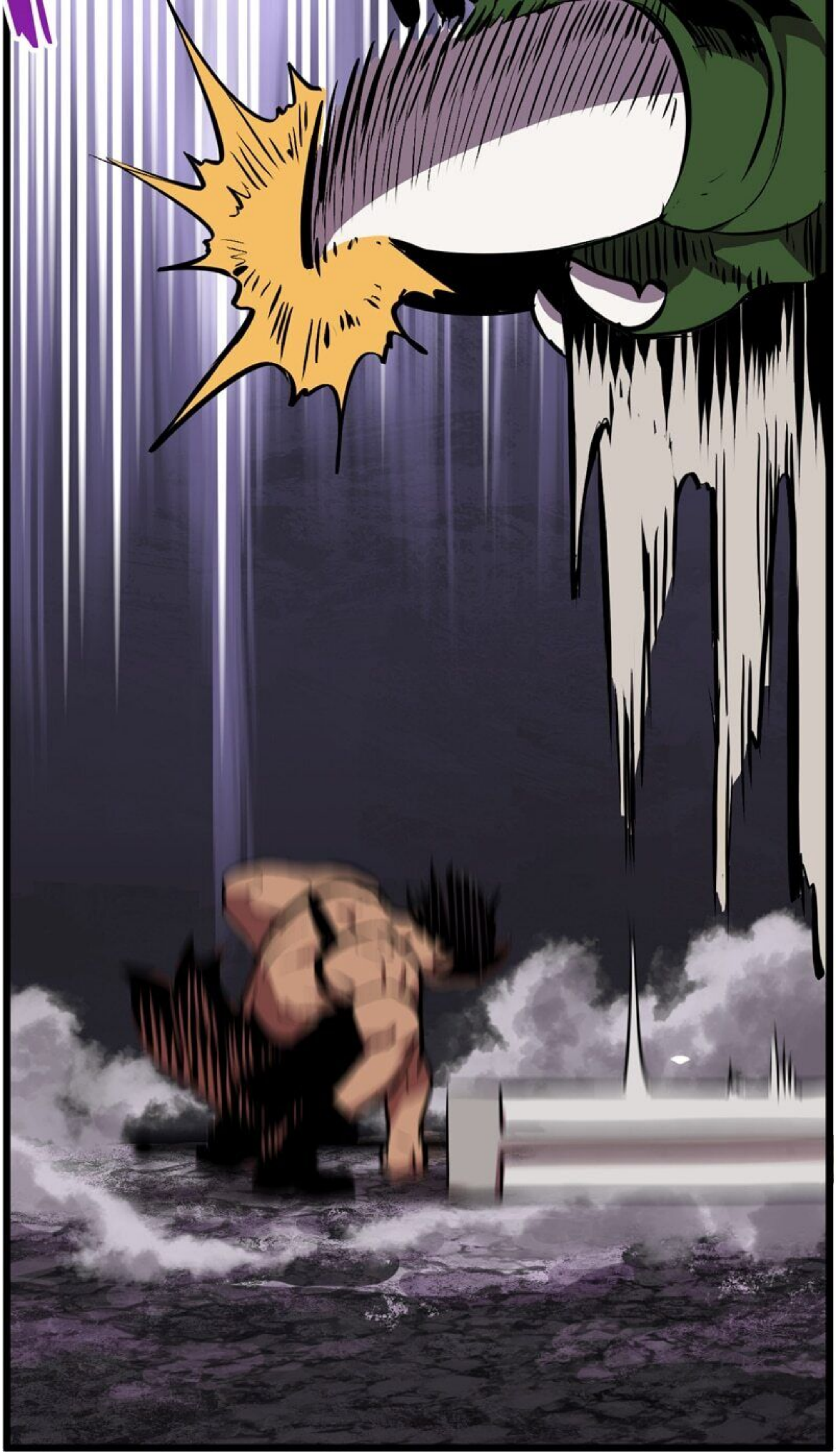
Kiba

SLASH

OH, NO!

I KILLED ANOTHER ONE! I NEED TO CONTROL MY STRENGTH.

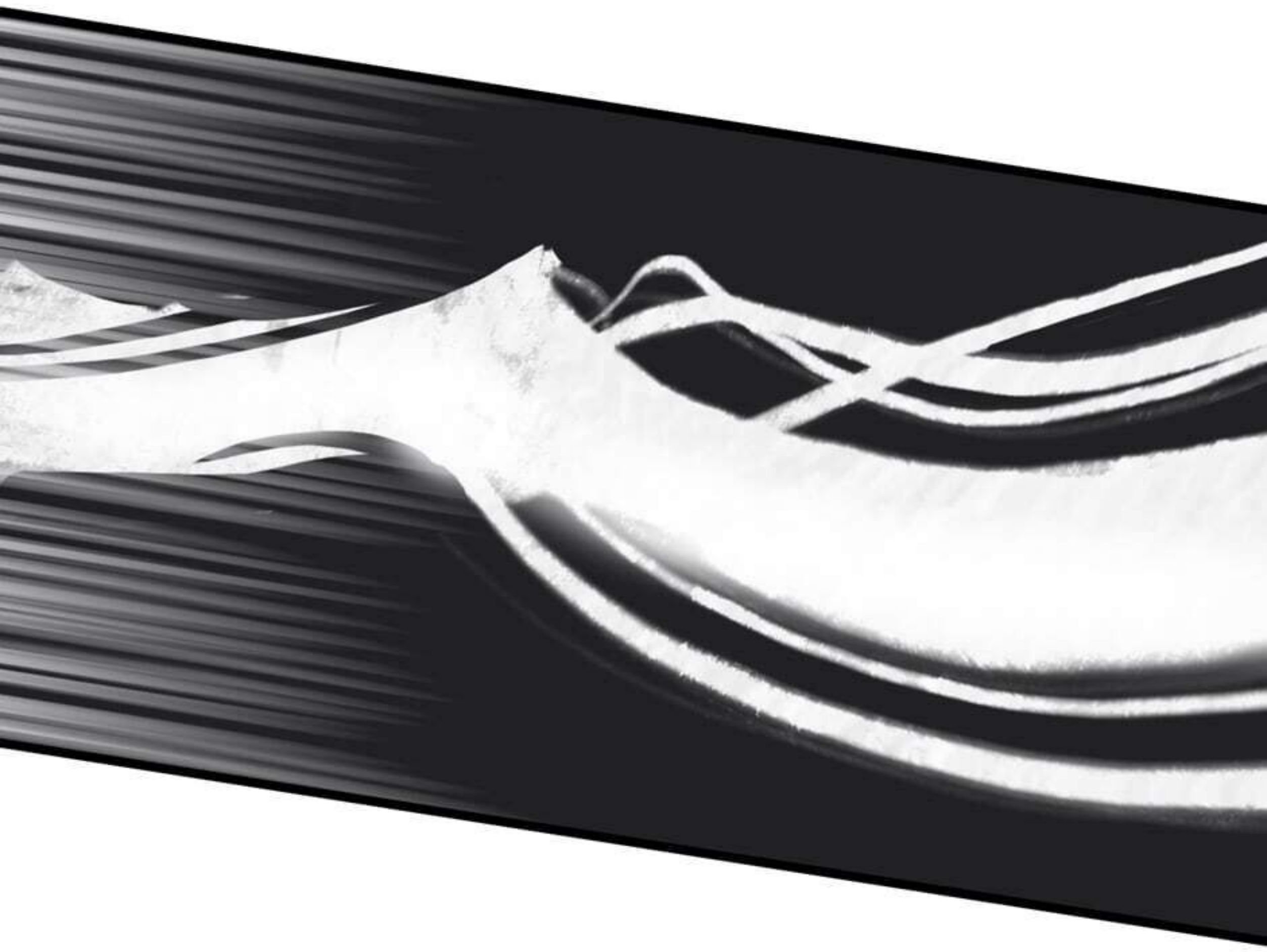
THUD



TRUCK-SIZED MONSTERS ARE COMING, ONE AFTER ANOTHER...
THERE ARE TOO MANY OF THEM FOR ME TO CARE ABOUT EACH ONE!

SSK

I WASN'T GOING TO USE THIS SKILL, BUT...!



HANBIN

STYLE

CASUAL STROLL

A SIMPLE AND UGLY SKILL OF PASSING THROUGH MONSTERS FROM UNDERNEATH

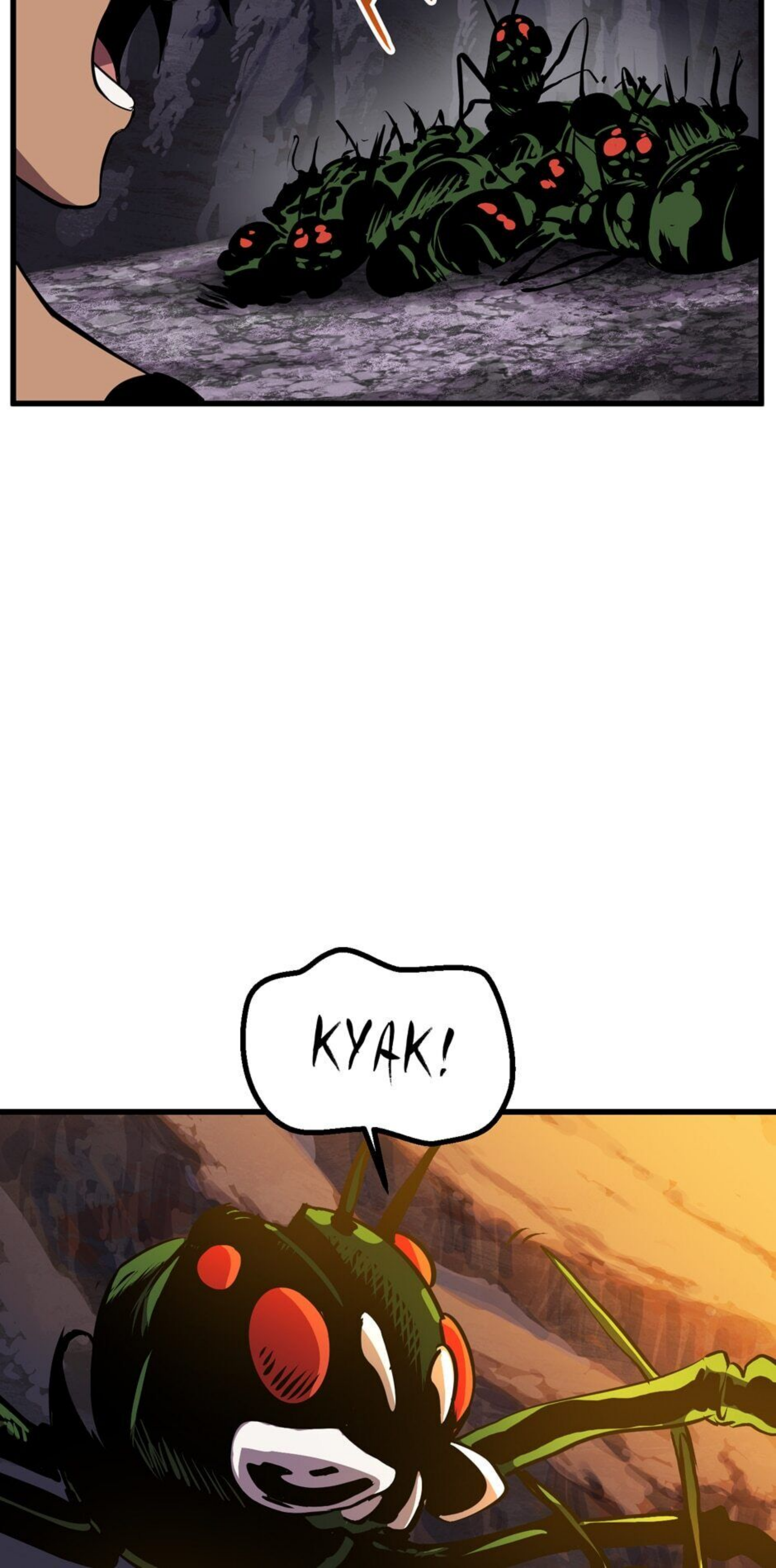
WHILE HOLDING UP THE SWORD, IN ORDER TO FIGHT A TALL ENEMY.

WIGGLE

...THAT CAN BE BENEFICIAL, TOO.

DINNER'S SERVED~!

FWOOSH


KYAK!

KYA...K?

SIZZLE
SIZZLE
SHWUP
SHWUP
SHWUP

OH! THIS MUST BE...

SHWUBB

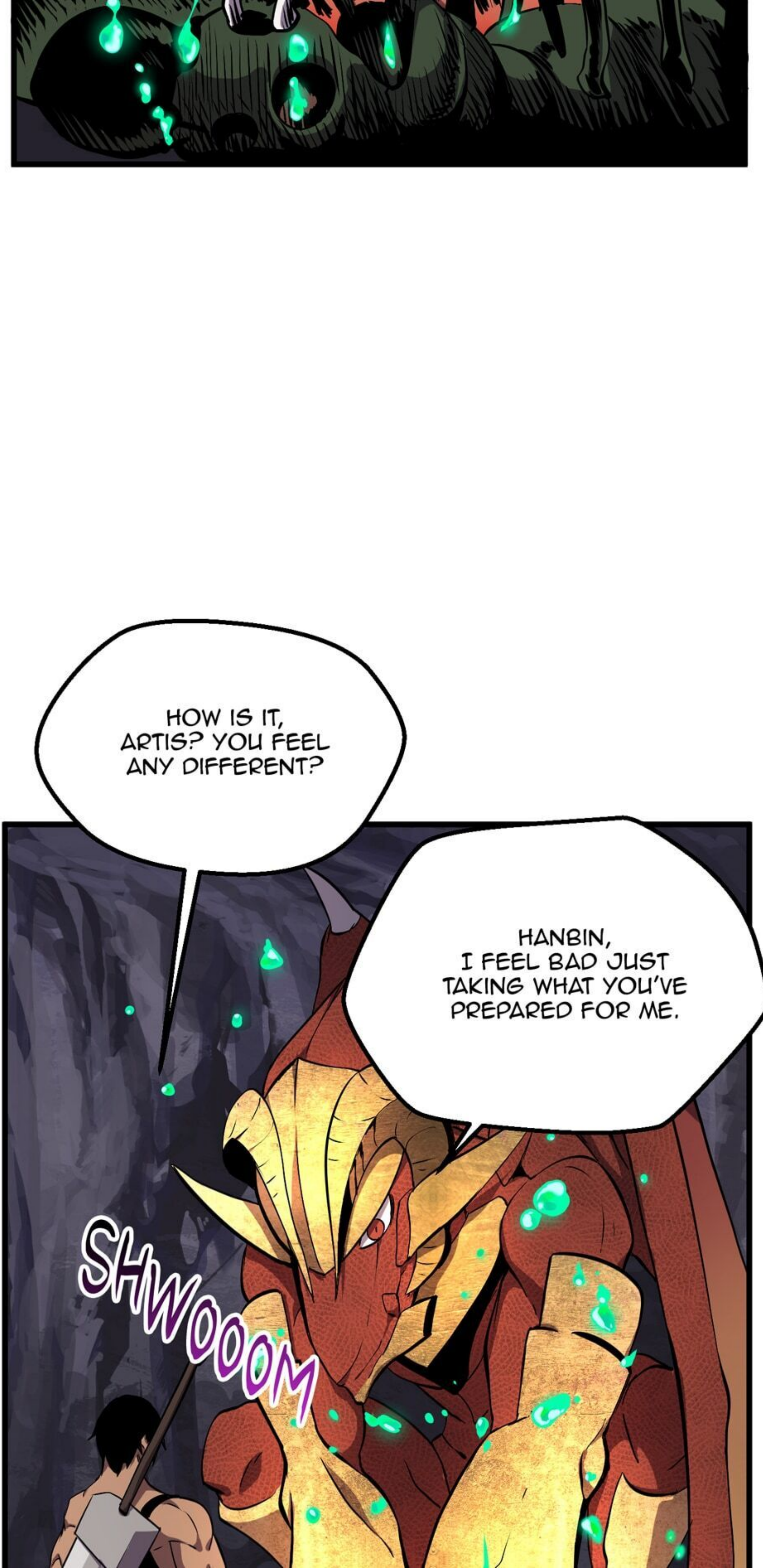
BLUB

BLUB

...ENERGY?

BUT I NEVER SAW ANYTHING LIKE THIS WHILE I WAS LEVELING UP.

SHWUP


HOW IS IT, ARTIS? YOU FEEL ANY DIFFERENT?
HANBIN, I FEEL BAD JUST TAKING WHAT YOU'VE PREPARED FOR ME.
SHWOOOM

THERE'S NO NEED TO FEEL BAD. IT'S GOOD FOR ME IF YOU LEVEL UP, TOO.
BUT THAT'S ODD... HOW COME YOUR LEVEL ISN'T INCREASING?

LEVELING UP ISN'T DONE INSTANTLY.

WHY'S THAT?

A 'LEVEL' IS A COMPREHENSIVE MEASUREMENT OF MULTIPLE THINGS COMBINED—LIKE THE AMOUNT OF ENERGY INSIDE ONE'S BODY, THE FLOW OF THE ENERGY, ETC.

TRAINING TO CONTROL THAT INTERNAL ENERGY TAKES BLOOD AND SWEAT.

I'M AWARE OF THAT. BUT I THOUGHT DRAGONS COULD ABSORB EXPERIENCE AND LEVEL DIRECTLY BY KILLING

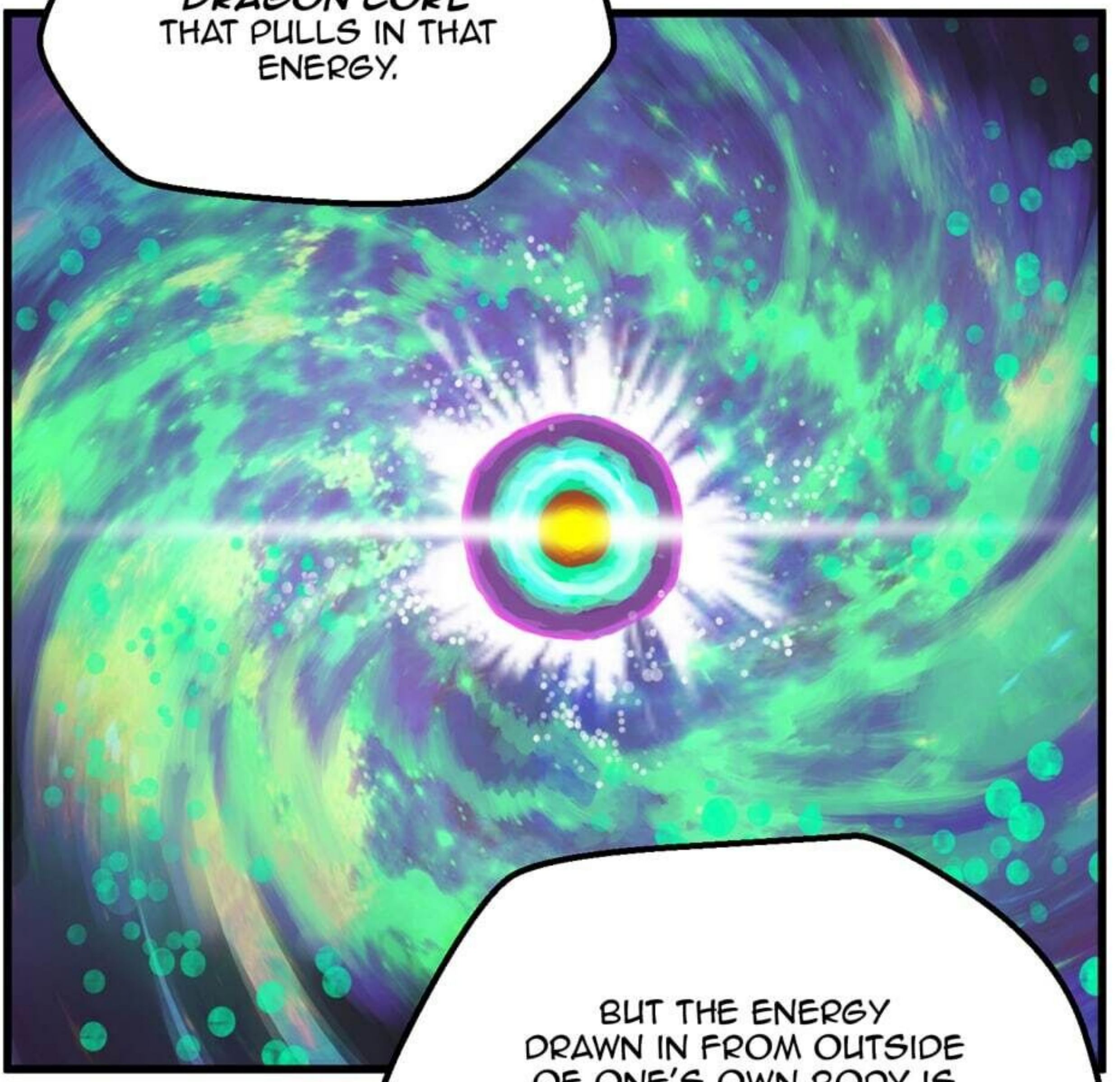
ENEMIES.

TECHNICALLY SPEAKING, A DRAGON DOESN'T ABSORB EXPERIENCE.

WE JUST PULL

IN THE ENERGY FROM BEINGS WE KILL.

IT'S THE ***DRAGON CORE*** THAT PULLS IN THAT ENERGY.



BUT THE ENERGY DRAWN IN FROM OUTSIDE OF ONE'S OWN BODY IS UNSTABLE AND IT ALSO HAS LIFE POWER.

SO, IN ORDER TO LEVEL UP, WE MUST STORE THAT UNSTABLE ENERGY.
BUT IF YOU ABSORB TOO MUCH ENERGY...
...YOU CAN DIE FROM...

...THE EXPLODING LIFE POWER INSIDE.
PUT ON SOME CLOTHES FIRST.

SO SIMPLY PUT, THE AMOUNT OF ENERGY YOU CAN ABSORB AT ONCE IS LIMITED?
THAT'S CORRECT.

IT'S JUST LIKE HOW DRINKING TOO MUCH WATER IS JUST DROWNING.

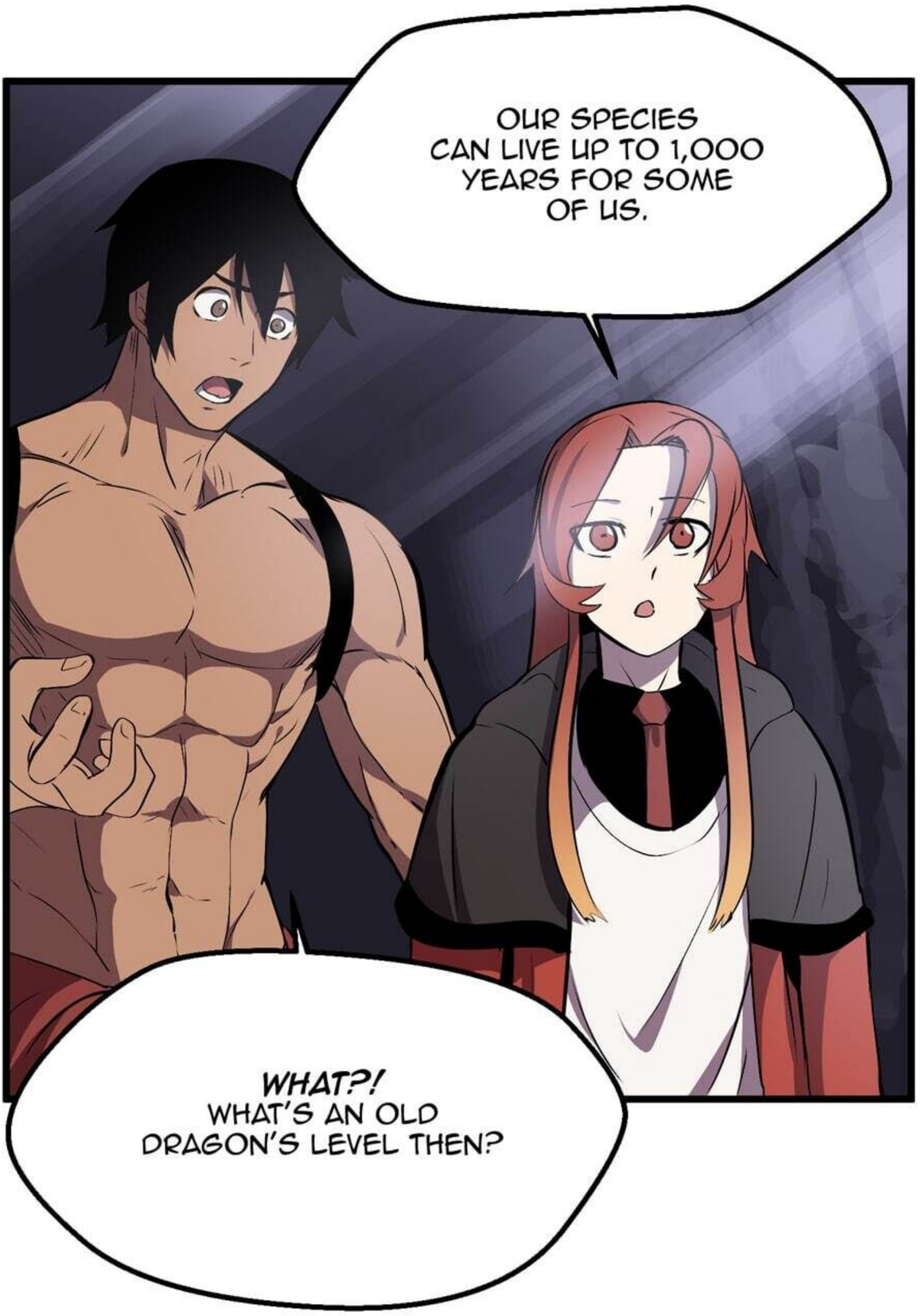
IF YOU NEED TO INCREASE YOUR LEVEL BY 20 OR 30... HUH?

WAIT, WHAT? 15 YEARS? HOW OLD ARE YOU NOW, ARTIS?

I TURN 150 THIS YEAR. WHY?

YOU'RE LIKE MY GREAT-GRANDFATHER!!

GRANDFATHER...? I'M CONSIDERED A CHILD AMONG THE DRAGONS.


OUR SPECIES CAN LIVE UP TO 1,000 YEARS FOR SOME OF US.
WHAT?! WHAT'S AN OLD DRAGON'S LEVEL THEN?

I'M ACTUALLY NOT SURE. THERE AREN'T MANY WAYS TO DETECT A DRAGON'S LEVEL.

BUT IT PUTS US AT A SIMILAR SITUATION AS YOURS, HANBIN.

WHI

NOT ENOUGH SUITABLE PREY TO LEVEL UP WITH?

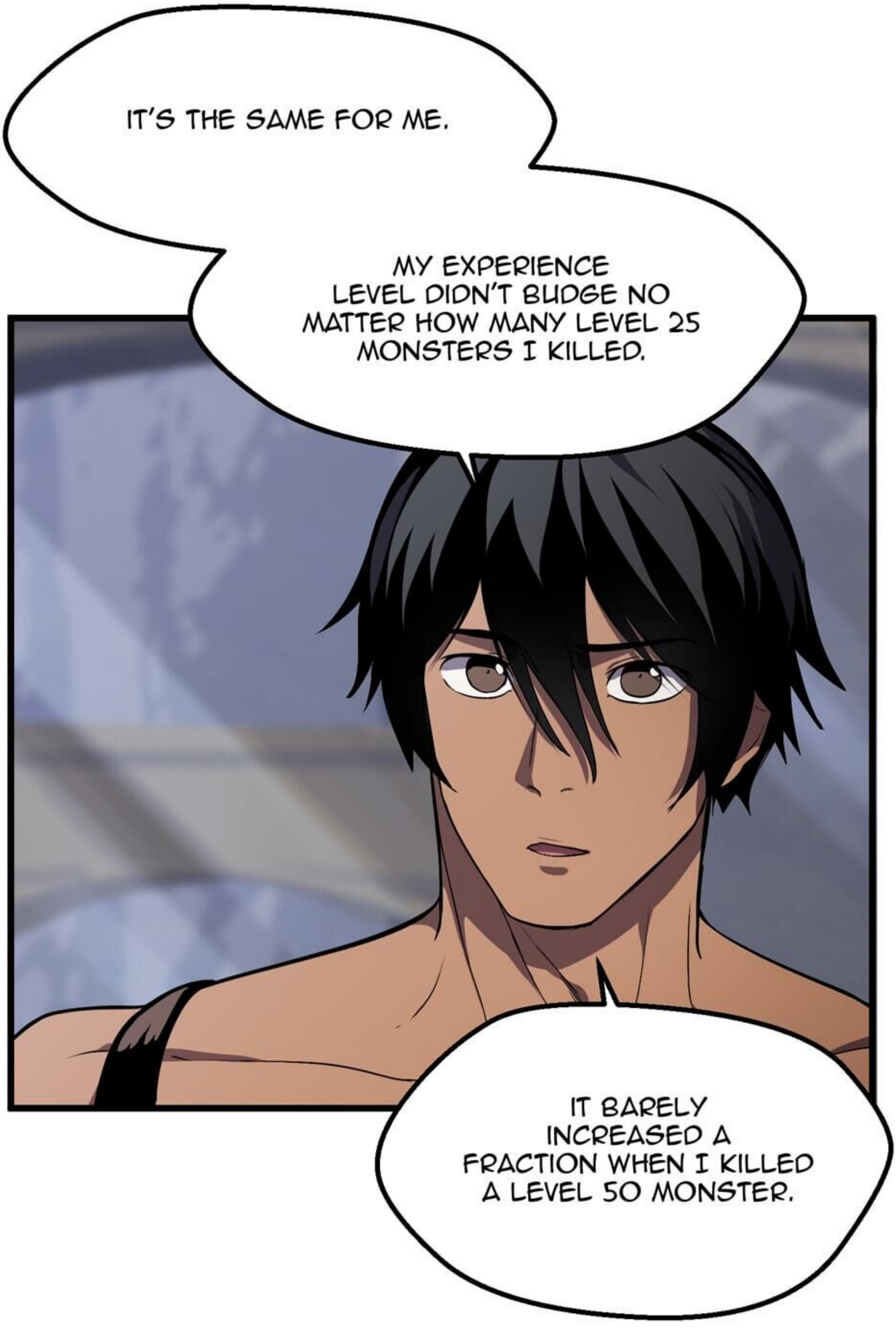
R R R R

THAT'S CORRECT. THERE AREN'T TOO MANY AROUND TO BEGIN WITH AND THEY'RE NOT EASY TO KILL EITHER.

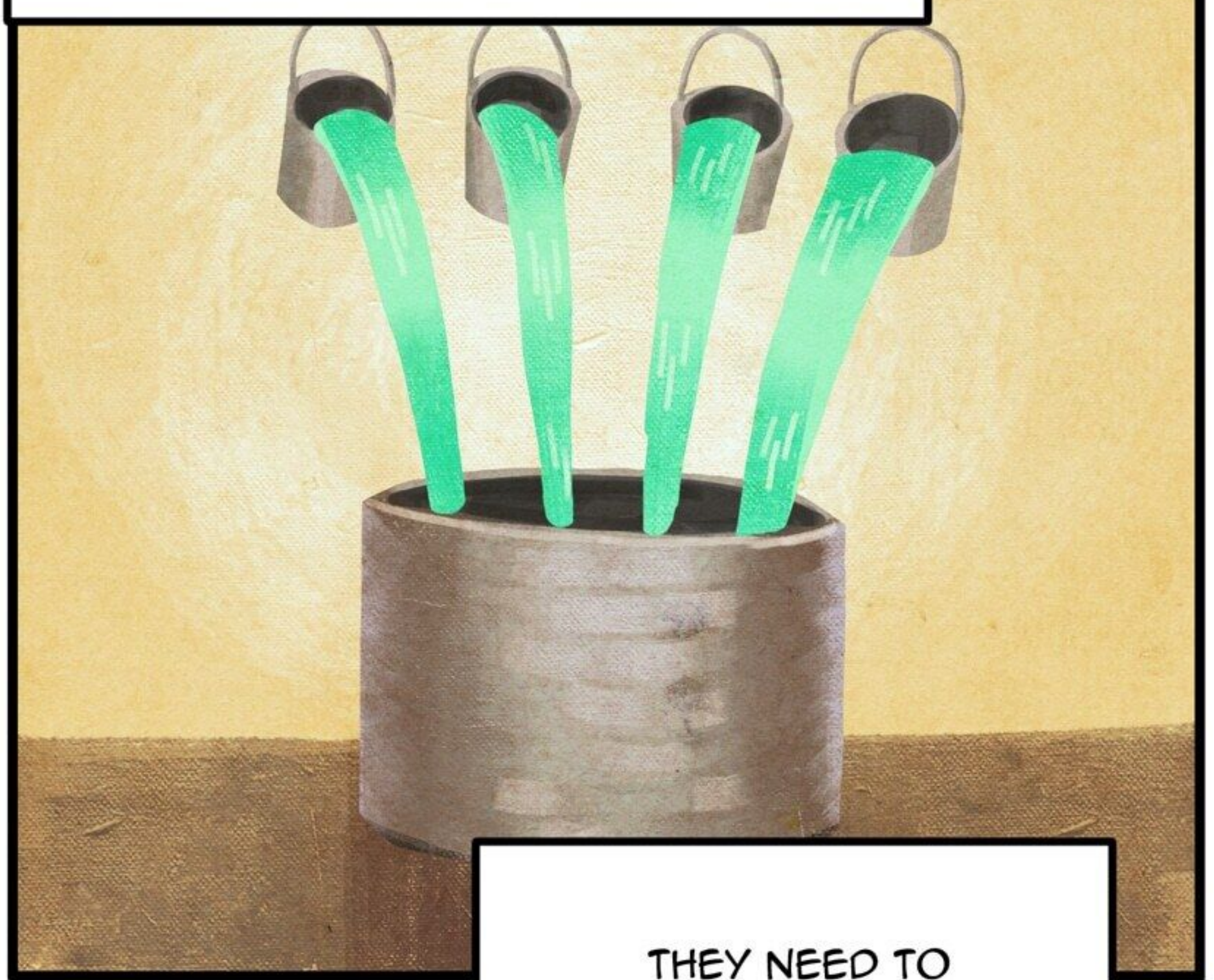
ON TOP OF THAT, SINCE DRAGONS LIVE TO BE SO OLD, IT TAKES A HUGE AMOUNT OF ENERGY TO GROW.

IF YOUR LEVEL IS THAT HIGH, MAYBE YOU DON'T NEED TO ANYMORE?
IT WOULD'VE BEEN NICE IF THE OLD DRAGONS THOUGHT THAT WAY, TOO.

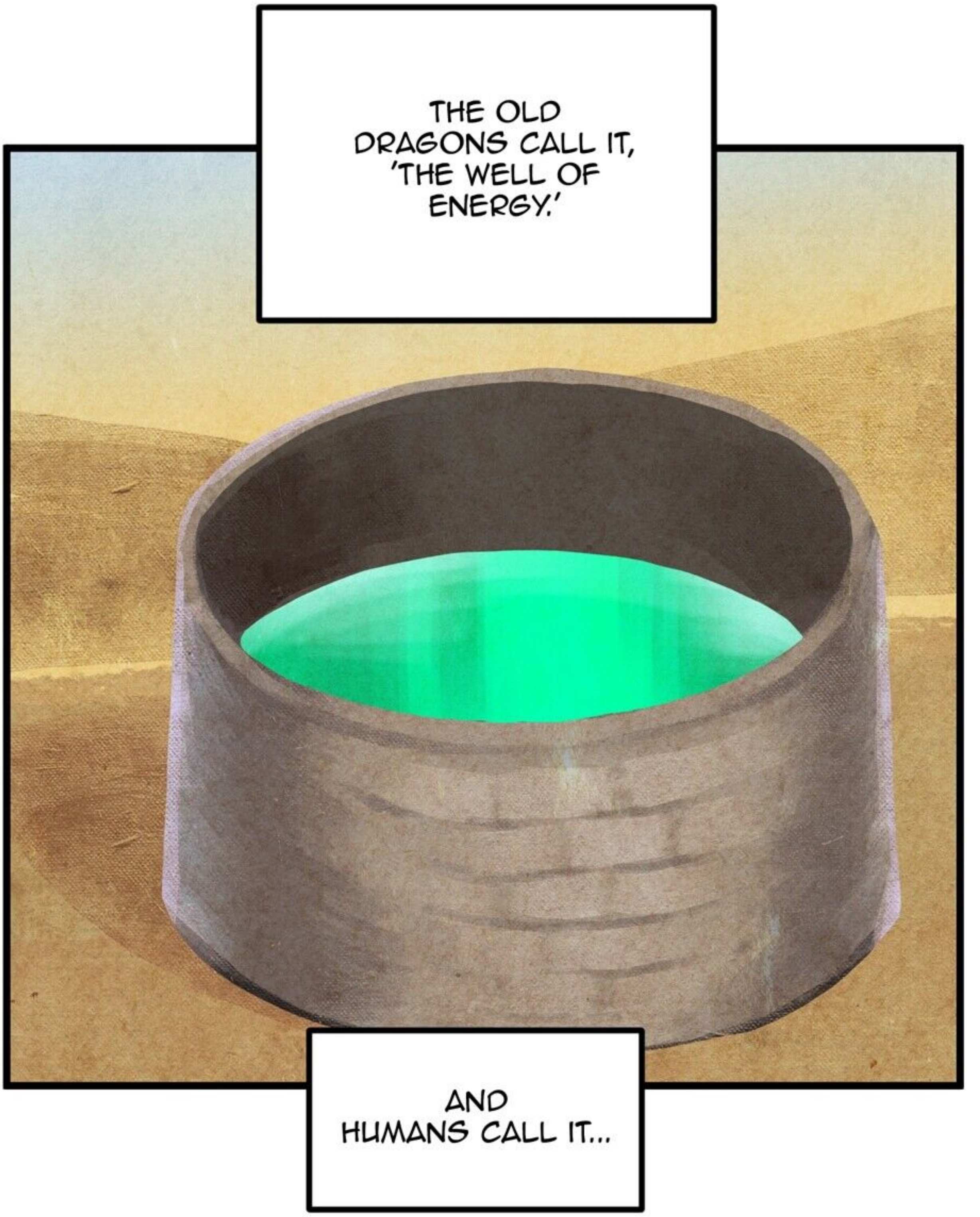
BUT THEY BECAME GREEDY FOR GREATER POWER.
THEY REALIZED THAT CONTINUOUSLY GETTING SMALL AMOUNTS OF ENERGY IS MEANINGLESS FOR THE PURPOSE OF LEVELING UP.


IT'S THE SAME FOR ME.
MY EXPERIENCE LEVEL DIDN'T BUDGE NO MATTER HOW MANY LEVEL 25 MONSTERS I KILLED.
IT BARELY INCREASED A FRACTION WHEN I KILLED A LEVEL 50 MONSTER.

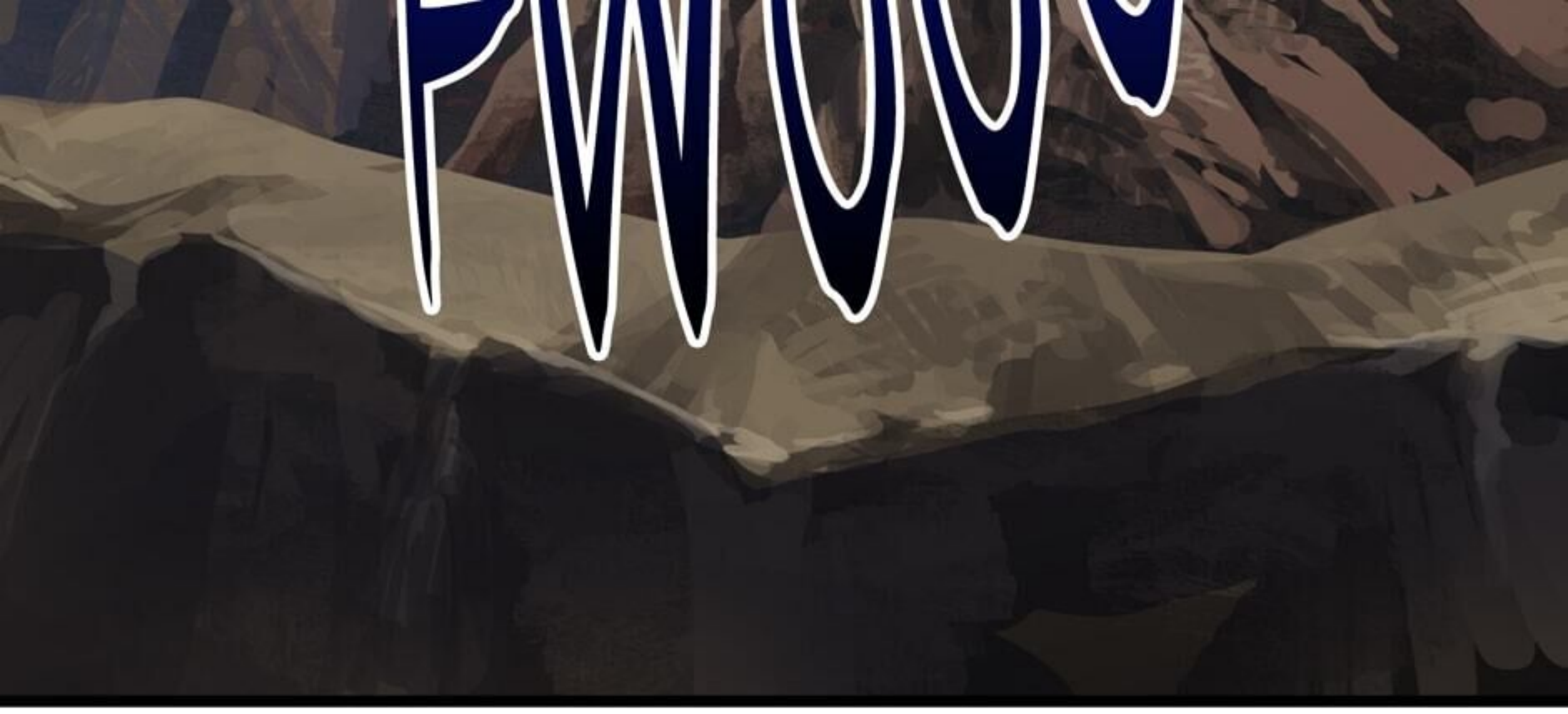
SO THE OLD DRAGONS REALIZED, IN ORDER TO GET A GREAT AMOUNT OF ENERGY AT ONCE,



THEY NEED TO COLLECT AND STORE THE ENERGY SOMEWHERE.


THE OLD DRAGONS CALL IT, 'THE WELL OF ENERGY.'
AND HUMANS CALL IT...

...A DRAGON'S NEST.



THEN... IS IT POSSIBLE THAT A HUMAN LIKE ME CAN LEVEL UP IN THAT WELL?

WITHOUT A DRAGON CORE?

KYAAAA

杀

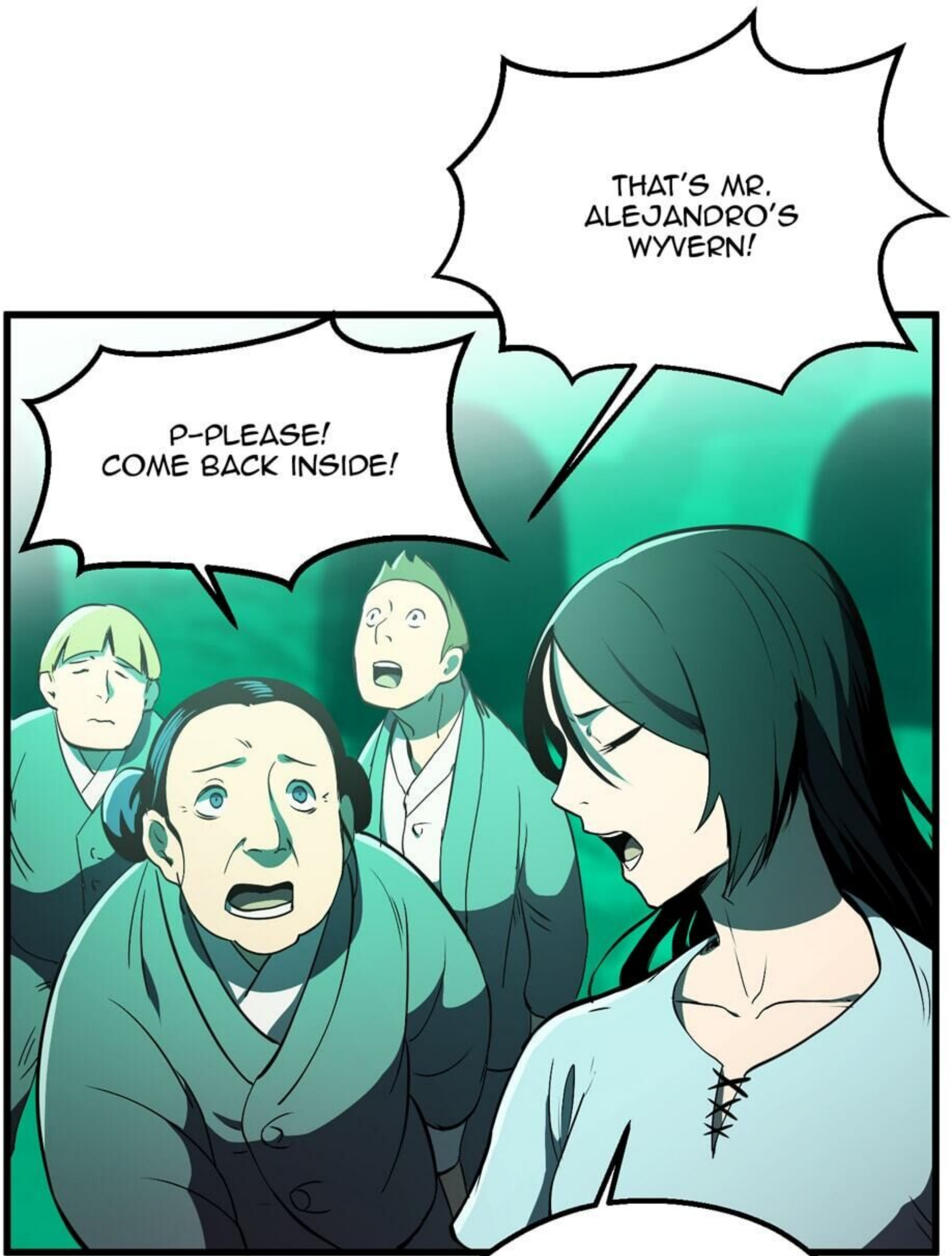
WAKE UP, HANBIN.
THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN STABILIZE THAT GREAT AMOUNT OF ENERGY WITHOUT A DRAGON CORE.

YOUR BODY
WILL GO THROUGH A
REPEATED PROCESS

OF DESTRUCTION
FROM THE UNSTABLE ENERGY
AND REGENERATION FROM
THE ENORMOUS LIFE
POWER SUPPLIED

POWER SUPPLIED.

THAT'S WHY IT'S LIKE A FORTRESS WHICH CAN NEVER BE INFILTRATED.



WHAT...? BUT THAT

BUT THAT WYVERN IS...

MR. ALEJANDRO DIDN'T SHACKLE IT, WHICH MEANS HE DOESN'T NEED IT!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, HE DOESN'T NEED IT?

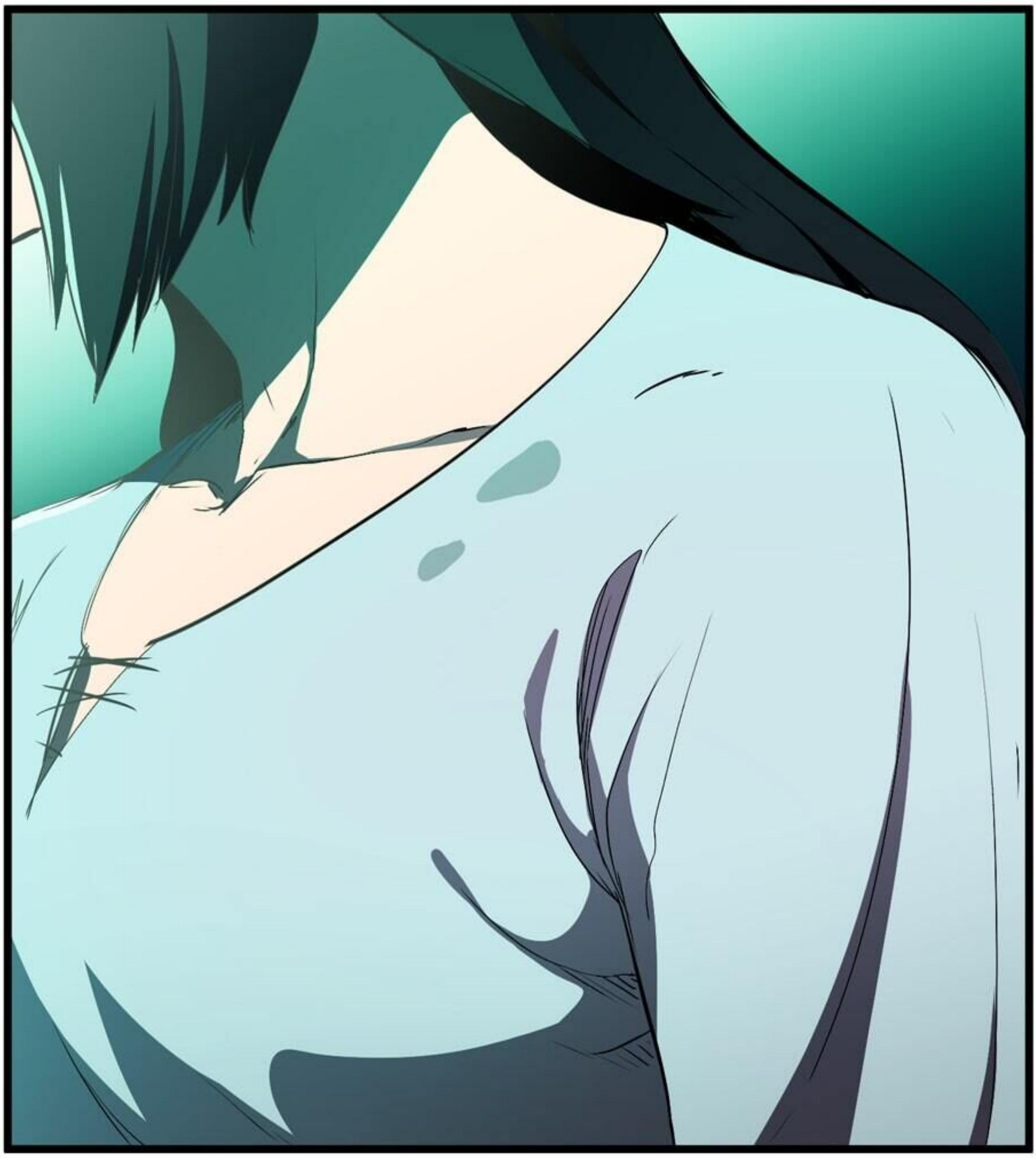
THE WYVERN IS ONE THING, BUT IF YOU EVER GOT HURT

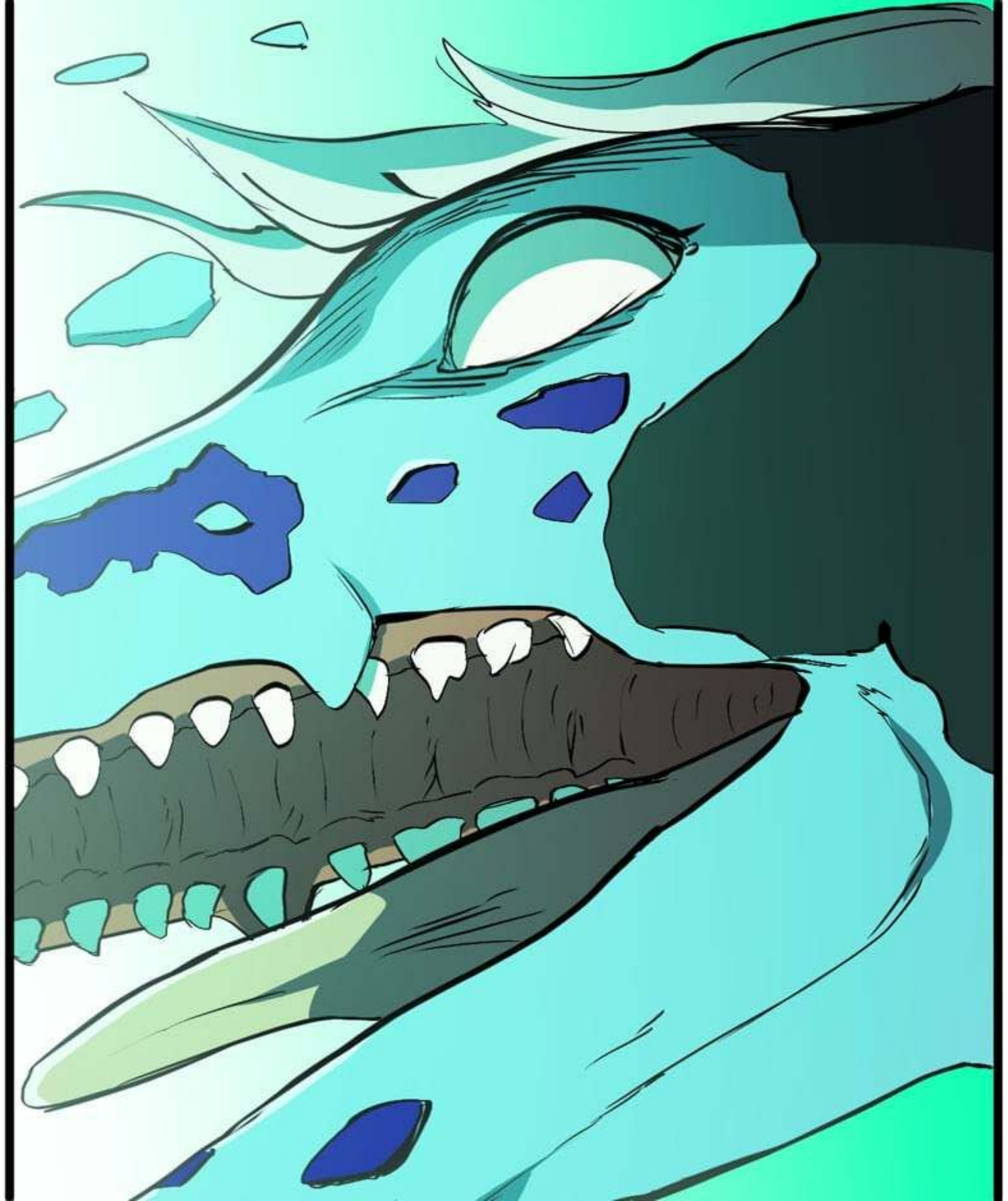
YOU EVER GOT HURT...

...THERE'S NO WAY MR. ALEJANDRO WOULD FORGIVE US!

バシュッ

...LET'S GO.

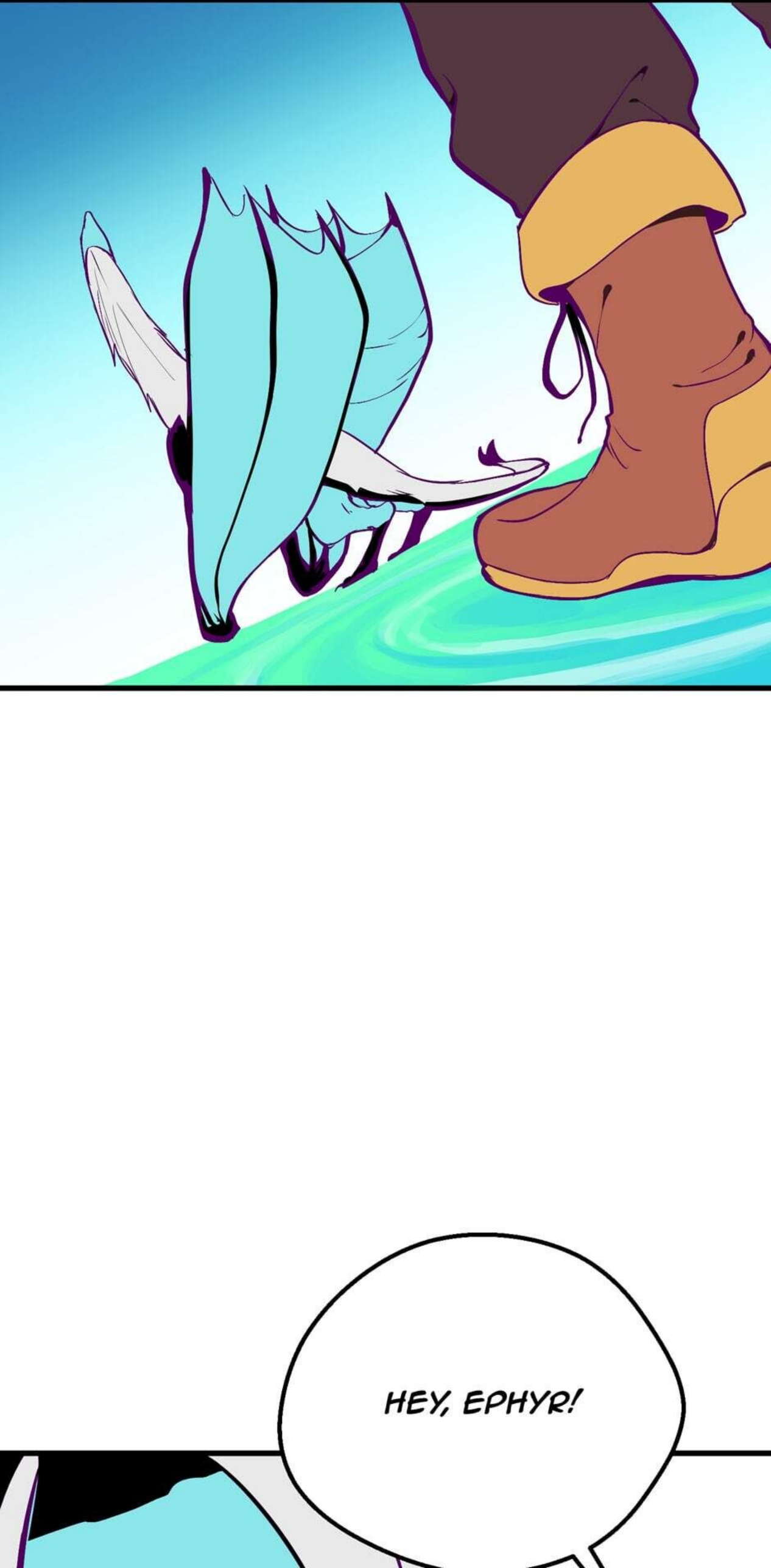




DING

BLINK
HUH?!

WH-WHERE... AM I?
WHAT WAS I DOING JUST NOW...?


HEY, EPHYR!

RED DOG
CULTURE HOUSE